ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

TENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Marshall Missionary Baptist ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Clear Spring Church, October 8, 9 and 10, 1897.

OFFICERS:

REV. R. W. ROE, MODERATOR..... McVille, Ala.
REV. G. M. MILNER, SECRETARY AND TREASURER... ..... Boaz, Ala.

The next session to be held with Mount Vernon church, beginning Friday before the Second Sunday in October, 1898.

GADSDEN, ALA.:
TRIBUNE JOB OFFICE PRINT,
1897.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read letters from churches.
2. Elect Moderator and Clerk.
3. Invite visiting ministers of our faith to seats with us.
4. Call for Correspondence.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Appoint Standing Committees, viz:—On Devotion, Missions, Sabbath Schools, Finance, Temperance, Education, Publication, Deceased Ministers, Nominations, Documents and Treasurer's Report.
7. Read Constitution and Rules of Decorum.
8. Call for report of Executive Committee.
9. Call for report of Treasurer.
10. Appoint Correspondents.
11. Elect Executive Committee and Treasurer.
12. Elect Delegates to Alabama Baptist Convention.
13. Appoint District Meetings.
14. Call for reports of Standing Committees.
15. Provide for Printing and Distribution of Minutes.
16. Miscellaneous Business.

MINUTES.

The Tenth Annual Session of the MARSHALL MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION convened with Clear Spring Church on Friday, October 8, 1897. The opening sermon was preached at 11 a. m., by Elder M. F. Owens, followed by Elder M. K. Taylor.

After an intermission of one hour the body re-assembled and was called to order by Elder W. J. Collier, who was elected Moderator pro tem.

Letters from the churches were read by J. W. Hughes and J. P. Emmet and names of delegates enrolled as follows :

Albertville—J. P. Emmet, J. R. McKinney, L. T. Walker, S. E. Finney.

Bethany—J. S. Robertson, W. K. Bobo.

Bethel—J. C. Teal, J. E. Cowan.

Bethsaida—R. Eubank, H. I. Barrett, J. H. Weir.

Beulah—E. P. Word, W. H. Culpepper, G. M. Milner.

Boaz—Rev. J. J. Dodd.

Clear Spring—S, F. Smith, D. C. Cowan, J. L. Morgan.

Concord—W. E. Avery.

Guntersville—W. C. Ward.

High Point—J. P. Buchanan, A. C. Yonng, Elder I. M. Thomson.

Hopewell—Rev. J. E. McAnally, W. T. Bailey, N. M. Isom.

Mt. Hebron—J. A. Fowler, W. A. Phillips.

Mt. Vernon—Joseph Creel, J. P. Gillespie, C. J. Strickland, E. P. Gillespie.

Mt. Zion—Elder M. F. Owens, W. B. Orr.

Mt. Olive—J. D. Kelley.

Phillippi—Rev. A. J. Cagle, T. J. Benton.

Pleasant Grove—W. A. Lee, J. W. Lang.

Pleasant Hill (Blount)—Elder J. A. Oden, A. B. Roberts.

Pleasant Hill (Etowah)—J. D. McHenry, C. S. Hand.

Rehoboth—L. H. Smith.

Rock Spring—Elder W. J. Collier, J. W. Hughes, W. C. Goodwin, Z. D. Bain.

Roswell Creek—J. F. Cain, C. W. Kilgore.

Ruth—Elder P. J. Corley, Elder T. J. Weaver.

Shady Grove—G. T. Aris, L. J. Snow, A. W. McAmey.

Shiloh—Elder J. H. Haley, Elder W. P. Grooves.

Union—W. A. J. Mathews, Charlie Simmons.

Union Grove—William Lowe, J. M. Davis.

Elected R. W. Roe Moderator, and G. M. Milner Clerk, brethren A. E. Burns and M. K. Taylor acting as tellers.

While awaiting the report of tellers the body heard a communication from Brother W. L. Casey, who lay dangerously ill in the neighborhood, requesting special prayer in his behalf. Prayer was offered, Brother J. H. Haley leading.

Invited visiting ministers of our faith to seats with us. Received Elder M. K. Taylor as correspondent from Gilliam Spring Association, and Elder A. E. Burns as representative of the State Mission Board and Evangelist of North Alabama.

Received by petitionary letter Sardis Church from the Warrior River Association and enrolled delegates: H. J. Morgan and W. C. Hall, to whom was extended the right hand of fellowship by the Moderator.

The Moderator while appointing committees called Brother Owens to the chair and the business proceeded.

Clerk read the Constitution and Rules of Decorum. Postponed the report of Executive Committee.

The Treasurer made following report:

G. M. Milner, Treasurer Marshall Association:

1896	Dr.		
Oct. 10.	To cash received from Finance Committee—		
	For State Missions $20 61; for Home Missions $8 88	$	29 49
	For Foreign Missions $29 21; for Association Missions $6 33		35 54
	Total for Missions	$	65 03
	For J. D. Jordan $6 47; J. Y. Bain $5 82: H. C. Reed $3 13—		
	Total for indigent ministers	$	15 42
	For minutes $24 35; unaccounted for $1 49		25 84
	Total receipts	$	106 29

1896	Cr.		
Oct. 10.	By cash to W. W. Harris, Agent State Mission Board—		
	For above stated purposes	$	64 77
Oct. 10.	By cash to J. D. Jordan $6 33; J. Y. Bain $5 82; H. C. Reed $2 80		14 95
	By cash for printing minutes $15 00; postage 24 cents		15 24
	By cash for Clerk's fee		10 00
	By cash on hand for Association Missions		25
	By cash on hand for J. D. Jordan		14
	By cash on hand for H. C. Reed		33
	By cash to balance		61
		$	106 29
	Collections for J. D. Jordan reported to me	$	2 75

Respectfully submitted,
G. M. Milner, Treasurer.

Referred to committee on treasurer's report.

Appointed correspondents to sister associations as follows:
To Gilliam Springs—I. M. Thompson, P. J. Corley.
To Cullman—P. J. Corley, J. F. King.

To Cherokee—M. F. Owens, W. B. Orr.
To Warrior River—J. A. Fowler, J. H. Haley.
To Etowah—J. C. Taylor, I. M. Thompson.
The following committees were appointed by moderator.
On Devotion—W. C. Goodwin, J. W. Hughes, James Lang and the deacons of this church.
On Missions—T. J. Weaver, J. J. Dodd, J. P. Gillespie.
On Sunday Schools—Joe Creel, J. A. Oden, J. P. Buchanan.
On Finance—W. C. Ward, J. A. Fowler, S. E. Finney.
On Temperance—W. J. Collier, M. F. Owens, J. H. Haley.
On Education—E. P. Word, J. P. Emmet, P. J. Corley.
On Publications—W. B. Orr, W. K. Bobo, J. L. Morgan.
On Deceased Ministers—J. A. Fowler, A. B. Roberts, J. H. Weir.
On Nominations—J. P. Gillespie, Jos. Creel, L. T. Walker.
On Documents—W. A. Phillips, H. T. Smith, C. J. Strickland.
On Treasurer's Report—J. S. Robertson, J. R. McKinney, R. Eubanks.
The committee on devotion reported preaching to-night by Rev. S. L. Rogers, followed by Rev. M. K. Taylor.
Adjourned till Saturday 8:30 o'clock a. m.

Second Day—October 9.

The body met pursuant to adjournment. Opened with a scripture lesson and prayer led by Elder A. E. Burns. Read and corrected minutes of yesterday.
Elected delegates to the Baptist State Convention of Alabama as follows:—G. M. Milner, J. H. Haley, Joseph Creel, J. P. Emmet, J. A. Fowler, J. P. Gillespie, W. J. Collier, E. P. Word.
Heard report of executive committee. A motion to adopt was lost. During the discussion of said report a collection was taken for brethren Jordan and Reed and Sister Bain, wife of Rev. J. Y. Bain, deceased, amounting to $10 31.
Received and read letter from Mt. Olive church without delegates. On motion seated brother J. D. Kelley as delegate from Mt. Olive.
Heard the following

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

We, your committee on missions, make the following report:—Dear Brethren —We are sorry to report that there is a decrease in our contributions for missions, which ought not to be. We know not the cause. The commission is to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." But "can they go except they be sent?" And whose duty is it to send them? Brethren, it is our duty to help in this grand cause, for our ability is much, and God will hold us responsible if we fail to do our duty in this cause. In conclusion we would earnestly urge our pastors and each member of this body, when they return home, to do all in their power to work up a greater interest in the cause of missions.

T. J. Weaver, Chairman.

The report was spoken to interestingly and feelingly by a number of brethren and also by Evangelist A. E. Burns, and we trust a profound interest was awakened

which we hope, by the grace of God, the brethren will never suffer to abate till Jesus comes. Somebody started a collection for missions by slipping a dime into brother Burns' hand, which aggregated $10 05. The report was adopted.

Adjourned one hour for dinner.

AFTERNOON.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Renewed the call for correspondents and received Elder J. S. Phillips, from Gilliam Springs, and Elder Jesse Brown from Warrior River. The committee made the following

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

We, your committee, report as follows: After considering the educational interests of our young people, we urge the education of our children to a higher standard, seeing that the government of both Church and State will soon rest upon them. But it becomes us as Baptists to look well to the proper training of our youths that they may more clearly understand the true teachings of the Bible. We cheerfully recommend our denominational schools, to-wit:—Howard College, at East Lake, Ala., and Judson Institute, at Marion, Ala.

Repectfully submitted,

P. J. Corley, Chairman.

The report after discussion was adopted.

Leave of absence for the balance of session was granted W. H. Culpepper, J. D. McHenry and delegates from Roswell Creek.

The committee made the following

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The committee on temperance make the following report: We need not say that intemperance is a curse in the land. It is known to be such, bringing sorrow, suffering and death among our fellowmen and women. The Bible says that no drunkard shall enter the kingdom of heaven. The best information that we have is that 100,000 of our fellow beings annually fill drunkards graves. This means that 100,000 souls are doomed to hell and lost forever. Brethren, are we doing all we can and ought to do to suppress this evil? Let us rise in the name of Christ with one united voice and action, using every opportunity we have in suppressing this great evil. We reccommend that if any church in this association has a member or members encouraging this great evil by signing petitions for the sale of, or furnishing material for the manufacture of liquor, he or they be admonished by said church to desist from such sin, and if the admonition is not heeded, that fellowship be withdrawn. Respectfully submitted,

M. F. Owens, Chairman.

After much interesting discussion the report was adopted.

The committee on devotion reported preaching to-night by R. W. Roe, followed by T. J. Weaver. Sunday School address in connection with report of committee at 10 o'clock Sunday by W. J. Collier Preaching at 11 o'clock by A. E. Burns, followed by P. J. Corley.

Adopted the following report on deceased ministers: We find that our Heavenly Father has graciously spared the lives of all our ministers for another year, for which we should be thankful. We reccommend that this body hold a short service of thanksgiving to God for this blessing. We find further that our venerable brother Rev. J. Y. Bain, who was once a member of this association, but had moved his membership to the Warrior River Association, has been called to his final home, and we recommend that a special committee be appointed to draft suitable resolutions in reference thereto. A. B. Roberts, Chairman.

The committee was appointed as recommended, viz;—J. W. Hughes, W. P. Goodwin and J. W. Lang

Heard and adopted the

REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS.

Dear Brothren :—We know that there is a responsibility resting upon us as a denomination in regard to propagating the grand truths of the Bible, upon which the salvation of our race depends. We, as christians, ought to see to it that the Bible is placed in the hands of our children as soon as they are able to comprehend its teachings. In view of the doctrines, or so called doctrines, so extant in the world Paul to the Gallatians says "though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you let him be accursed." As individual responsibility is required, we urge and recommend the more thorough reading of the Bible. We recommend the Alabama Baptist, the organ of our denomination in the State. The State Mission Journal, both at Montgomery, Ala., and the Foreign Mission Journal, Richmond, Va. We believe it is our indispensable duty to see that our children have good literature to read.

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. Orr, Chairman.

Heard and adopted report of finance committee. (See financial exhibit.)

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

We submit the following: To preach introductory sermoon, Dr. W. M. Scarborough; alternate, W. P. Groover. Sunday School address, I. M. Thompson; Mission sermon, R. W. Roe, alternate, G. M. Milner.

J. P. Gillespie, Chairman.

Report was adopted.

Appropriated surplus of 61 cents in treasury to missions.

Re-elected J. H. Haley, L. T. Walker and T. J. Dodd executive committee.

Re-elected G. M. Milner treasurer.

Meeting for the Third District to be held at Ruth Friday before the 5th Sunday in May, 1898. Heard and adopted the following

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your committee, find that the church at Mt. Vernon invites the association to hold the next session with her. We recommend that the invitation be accepted, to convene on Friday before the 2d Sunday in October, 1898. Mt. Vernon is two miles northwest of Boaz, and four miles south of Albertville.

W. A. Phillips, Chairman.

Ordered that the Clerk receive $10 and that the remainder of minute fund be appropriated to printing and distributing minutes containing Articles of Faith, Constitution and Rules of Decorum.

Adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That we, the delegates from the different churches of the Marshall Association, extend our thanks to Clear Spring Church and community for the kind hospitality shown us while convened with them.

On motion directed that the Association Mission Fund of $17 76, now on deposit with the State Mission Board, be used by said board for mission work in this Association through the co-operation of the Executive Committee.

On motion agreed to meet at 8:30 o'clock to-morrow (Sunday) morning and spend one hour in devotional exercises conducted by Brother M. F. Owens.

Adjourned till the time agreed on.

SUNDAY.

Met according to agreement and engaged in the appointed devotional meeting led by Brother Owens, during which special prayer was made in accordance with the recommendation of committee on Deceased Ministers.

Heard report of committee on Sabbath Schools.

Dear Brethren :—We are impressed from having heard the letters read from the churches that there is not that degree of interest in the Sabbath School work that its importance demands. Surely our brethren are not ignorant of the obliga-

tion they are under to teach the scriptures to their children, which may be done in Sabbath School. Brethren, let us accept the teaching of the Word, and enter with renewed energy upon this work, and press on. We suggest that the pastors of the several churches of this association earnestly urge upon their churches the importance of a good Sabbath School, and try to stimulate the brethren to this work, and use their utmost influence for its progress. The next Baptist Sabbath School Convention will be held at Concord Church on Friday before the 5th Sunday in May, 1898. Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH CREEL, Chairman.

Pending the adoption of the above report Brother W. J. Collier delivered the Sabbath School address, after which a number of other brethren discussed the subject interestingly. Others wanted to, but there was not time. One brother suggested that more of us attend the Sunday School Convention which was organized for the purpose of awakening an interest in this work, and there we will have more time. The report was adopted.

Resolutions were read by the committee in reference to the death of Brother John Y. Bain, providing for their publication in the Alabama Baptist and our county papers. The resolutions were adopted and the committee continued to draft resolutions in memory of Elder W. L. Casey, who has just died during this session of the association.

Read and adopted minutes and adjourned.

Rev. A. E. Burns filled the appointment at 11 o'clock with an able and profoundly interesting discourse from Rev. 11-15—"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever." The various preaching appointments were filled by the appointees. The meetings were enjoyable and harmony prevailed throughout the session. The Sabbath collection for missions was $4 20. The closing exercises were conducted by Brother P. J. Corley, the brethren giving each other the parting hand.

G. M. MILNER, Clerk. R. W. ROE, Moderator.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS.

J. E. Bagwell	Arab, Ala.	C. A. Morton	Alice, Ala.
J. M. Brown	Boaz, "	H. M. Nipper	Whitesville, "
J. W. Brown	Strawberry, "	J. D. Pettit	Albertville, "
W. M. Claiburn	Friendship, "	J. A. Oden	McLarty, "
S. T. Collier	Albertville, "	M. F. Owens	Fenton, "
W. J. Collier	Hyatt, "	H. C. Reed	Summit, "
P. J. Corley	Joppa, "	R. W. Roe	McVille, "
N. C. Denham	Hyatt, "	S. L. Rogers	Mountainboro, "
W. P. Groover	Friendship, "	L. M Teel	Friendship, "
J. H. Haley	Alice, "	I. M. Thompson	Hyatt, "
J. D. Jordan	Marshall, "	W. M. Scarborough	Albertville, "
L. D. Lewis	Horton, "	T. J. Weaver	Ruth, "
G. M. Milner	Boaz, "		

LIST OF LICENSED MINISTERS.

J. W. Amos	Hyatt, Ala.	Benjamin Mays	Arab, Ala.
A. J. Cagle	Mountainboro, "	J. E. McAnally	strawberry, "
A. K. Casey	Sidney, "	W. D. Thomas	Fenton, "
William Dyar	Hoke's Bluff, "	C. C. Shelton	Brooksville, "
J. J. Dodd	Boaz, "	James Floyd	Albertville, "
S. J. Low	Albertville, "		

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I.—OF THE SCRIPTURES.

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and, therefore, is and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

II.—OF THE TRUE GOD.

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III.—OF THE FALL OF MAN.

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state: in consequence of which all men are now sinners, not by constraint, but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and, therefore, under condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV.—OF THE WAY OF SALVATION.

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the meditatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an allsufficient Savior.

V.—OF JUSTIFICATION.

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI.—OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION.

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvationof the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII.—OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

VIII.—OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH.

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also, inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy: at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

IX.—OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE.

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

X.—OF SANCTIFICATION.

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter. in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

XI.—OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS.

We believe that such only are real believers as endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from the superficial professors; that a special providence wathes over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII.—OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND GOSPEL.

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XIII.—OF A GOSPEL CHURCH.

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word, that its only Scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistle to Timothy and Titus.

XIV.—OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and the Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequsite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XV.—OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI.—OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

We believe that Civil Government is of Divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jusus Christ. who is the only Lord of the conscience. and Prince of the kings of the earth.

XVII.—OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED.

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII.—OF THE WORLD TO COME.

We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation then will take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

Adopted the following Constitution recommended by committee:

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be composed of the members chosen by the different churches in the union, and shall be known as the Marshall Missionary Baptist Association.

2. Each church shall send a letter to the Association by their delegates, giving the number baptized, received and dismissed by letter, excluded, restored and died during the Associational year, total number in fellowship, time of monthly meeting, and contributions for minutes and other purposes.

3. This Association shall be considered merely an advisory council, claiming no authority over the rights and privileges of individual churches. It is agreed, however, that the Association shall have the right to withdraw fellowship from any church that departs from the faith and order of the Gospel.

4. Each church shall be entitled to send two delegates to the Association for the first fifty members, and one for each additional fifty or fraction over half that number; and should any church fail to represent herself, she shall state the reason in her next letter to the Association.—Amendment of 1893.

5. Any Baptist church may be admitted into this Association by sending a petitionary letter and delegates. If upon examination she is orthodox and orderly, the Moderator shall give her delegates the right hand of fellowship.

6. This Association shall elect annually from her delegates a Moderator and Clerk and Treasurer. The Moderator shall preside over her deliberations, preserve order, and see that the rules of decorum are faithfully carried out by the members, decide all questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the Association, and give the casting vote when the Association is equally divided. The Clerk shall take correct minutes of the proceedings of the body, superintend their publication and distribution among the churches.

7. This Association will answer or dispose of queries sent up by the churches or proposed by any member; provided such queries shall be expressed in their letters.

8. This Association may adopt some plan for raising funds by voluntary contributions, to defray the expenses of the Association, for supplying the destitute churches and settlements in her bounds with the preaching of the Gospel, and for any other purpose she may deem proper; leaving every church member free to contribute as he shall purpose in his heart. All funds thus raised shall be placed in the hands of the Treasurer, who shall be accountable for the same, and shall be a countable for the same, and shall appropriate it as the Association may direct.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote, except upon the alteration or amendment of this Constitution.

10. This Association shall elect annually one of her ministers to preach an introductory sermon, and one to preach on missions.

11. This Asssociation will do missionary work through the Board of the Baptist denomination of this State.

12. Any church, through strifes and schisms, having become divided into factions, neither faction will be allowed representation in this body until she has called a discreet council of her sister churches and submitted her grievances to said council; and in case a reconciliation can not be made, that faction which shall be recommended by said council as the consistent church shall be recognized by this Association.

13. The Minutes shall be read, approved, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns.

14. This Constitution may be altered or amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided the alteration or amendment has been proposed at a previous meeting of the Association.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RULES OF DECORUM.

The committee on Articles of Faith, Constitution, etc., appointed at the organization of the Marshall Association and continued to the first session of that organization, submit the following

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep on file a copy of the printed minutes of each and every session of this Association, and deliver the same to his successor in office.

2. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the body.

3. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject.

4. When a motion has been made and regularly announced by the Moderator, no motion shall be received except to amend, to substitute to lay upon the table, to postpone indefinitely, or to postpone to a certain time; but a motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except when a member is speaking or the body is voting.

5. No member shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the body.

6. Members shall be required to demean themselves in such a way as will comport with the dignity of the body and the high object it labors to advance. It shall be the special duty of the Moderator to call to order any member who may indulge in offensive personalities or unbecoming language, or depart from the subject while speaking.

7. Each session of this Association shall fix the time and place of holding the succeeding one.

8. The order of business printed on the second page of the minutes shall be observed at each session of the Association.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT, 1897.

CHURCHES.	MISSIONS.											
	State—Cash.	State—Voucher.	Home—Cash.	Home—Voucher.	Foreign—Cash.	Foreign—Voucher.	Indigent Ministers—Cash.	Indigent Ministers—Voucher.	Minutes.	Pastor's Salary.	Value of Church Building.	Total for Missions.
Albertville	$ 5 00	$	$	$	$ 4 00	$	$	$	$ 2 00	$	$ 300 00	$ 9 00
Bethany							2 0		1 00		100 00	2 00
Bethel									50		50 00	
Bethsaida									1 15		200 00	
Beulah	2 50				2 50	5 30			2 00	49 60	300 00	10 30
Boaz	2 05		2 00		2 00				1 30	55 00		6 05
Clear Spring	1 20								1 50	40 00	300 00	1 20
Concord									80		300 00	
Guntersville	1 00		70		1 00				40			2 70
High Point	1 50								90		240 00	1 50
Hopewell	1 86								50	25 00	300 00	1 86
Mt. Hebron	1 00		1 05		75		2 20		1 30		400 00	5 00
Mt. Olive	25								55		50 00	25
Mt. Vernon					9 10	7 50			2 00	54 00	500 00	16 60
Mt. Zion					1 25				80		200 00	1 25
New Macedonia									60		50 00	
Oak Grove	1 00							1 35	50	11 45	90 00	2 35
Phillippi							40		65	5 25	200 00	40
Pleasant Grove	35	2 92		75					75	4 77	300 00	4 62
Pleasant Hill, Blount									60		200 00	
Pleasant Hill, Etowah	50								55		50 00	50
Rehoboth	1 00								60		50 00	1 00
Rock Spr'g, $2.45 Mis.									1 05		50 00	2 45
Roswell Creek									64		50 00	
Ruth	1 25				1 25		2 50		60		100 00	5 00
Sardis	50						75		1 05		50 00	1 25
Shiloh	1 00								50		50 00	1 00
Shady Grove	20						3 30		1 20		300 00	3 50
Union	1 30		2 00		3 00		50		1 25		250 00	6 80
Union Grove					1 00				1 50		200 00	1 00
Col. at Associations	4 75		4 75		4 75		10 31					24 56
Amb'se, John, Claud	30											30
Totals	$28 51		$10 50		$30 60		$21 96		$28 74	245 07	$5230 00	$ 111 84

31.43 / 11.25 / 43.40 / 23.31 /

STATISTICS OF MARSHALL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST OFFICE.	Membership Last Reported.	Increase.				Decrease.				Present Membership.	SUNDAY SCHOOL.			Preaching Sabbaths.	Reports Prayer Meeting.	Reports Revival.	Baptized from S. S.
						Baptism.	Letter.	No. who take denominat'l paper.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.		Office's & Teach'rs.	Pupils.	Superintendent's Name and Post Office Address.				
Albertville	Marshall	J. M. McCord	J. R. McKinney	Albertville	117	....	21	....	..	12	3	..	..	123	11	69	W. P Hodges, Albertville	4	..	.....	..
Bethany	"	M. F. Owens	A. N. Haley	Bartlett	55	2	5	....	1	9	1	..	..	53	..	....		1	..	.....	..
Bethel	"	J. E. Cannon	J. F. Kennamer	Warrenton	58	....	....	....	..	3	1	6	..	49	..	....		..	..	.....	..
Bethsaida	"	I. M. Thompson	H. I. Barrett	Boaz	74	..	1	2	..	3	1	..	1	69	7	60	H. I. Barrett, Boaz	4	..	.....	..
Beulah	"	R. W. Roe	E. Cobb	Marshall	140	13	8	11	2	18	1	..	..	144	..	....		3	Yes	Yes	..
Boaz	"	R. W. Roe	J. M. Gibbs	Boaz	48	11	16	5	..	3	....	..	3	69	3	40	J. D. McClesky, Boaz	4	Yes	Yes	3
Clear Spring	"	M. K. Taylor	J. L. Morgan	Sidney	76	5	2	..	..	6	2	..	4	71	3	40	Z. D. Smith, Sidney	4	Yes	Yes	..
Concord	"	Jesse Brown	W. E. Avery	Reedbrake	16	12	10	..	1	2	1	..	1	35	4	50	T. W. Burgett, Reedbrake	3	..	Yes	8
Guntersville	"	J. D. Petit	W. C. Ward	Wyeth City	18	....	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	19	4	36	S. L. Conn, Guntersville	4	..	.....	..
High Point	"	S. L. Rogers	M. N. Amos	Bartlett	74	..	7	1	..	16	1	1	2	61	..	....	J. P. Buchanan, Hyatt	1	..	.....	..
Hopewell	Cullman	J. S. Phillips	H. J. Phillips	Red Hill	89	14	6	1	..	1	2	5	..	101	4	63	H. J. Phillips, Red Hill	4	..	Yes	7
Mt. Hebron	Marshall	A. Dorman	J. A. Fowler	Friendship	56	19	6	..	2	3	2	..	1	77	..	....		4	..	Yes	..
Mt. Olive	"	H. M. Nipper	J. D. Kelley	Guntersville	52	7	..	..	5	8	1	..	2	53	4	46	A. J. Moseley, Guntersville	..	..	Yes	..
Mt. Vernon	"	R. W. Roe	J. K. Bradberry	Albertville	126	25	9	..	2	5	..	..	..	147	6	103	Joseph Creel, Boaz	1	..	Yes	22
Mt. Zion	DeKalb	J. J. Clayton	M. B. Broadwell	Aroney	52	4	4	2	..	2	..	..	1	57	6	60	M. B. Broadwell, Aroney	3	Yes	Yes	2
New Macedonia	Marshall	.....	H. T. Smith	McVille	23	..	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	16	..	....		1	..	.....	..
Oak Grove	"	S. L. Rogers	E. N. Haynie	Bartlett	8	4	7	2	..	....	....	..	..	21	4	29	W. J. Elkins, Albertville	2	..	Yes	..
Phillippi	Etowah	S. L. Rogers	A. J. Cagle	Mountainboro	49	....	4	..	..	1	....	..	1	51	..	....		2	..	.....	..
Pleasant Grove	Marshall	N. C. Denham	A. B. Casey	Sidney	69	36	5	1	4	3	....	..	1	110	7	77	W. C. Goodwin, Hyatt	3	Yes	Yes	12
Pleasant Hill	Blount	W. M. Claiburn	A. B. Roberts	McLarty	19	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	..	....		3	..	Yes	..
Pleasant Hill	Etowah	H. M. Nipper	J. D. McHenry	Boaz	26	10	4	..	1	1	4	..	..	35	5	60	J. D. McHenry, Boaz	3	Yes	Yes	6
Reholoth	Marshall	W. J Collier	A. M. Smith	Guntersville	30	14	3	..	2	..	....	..	2	47	6	86	Z. T. Sparks, Guntersville	1	..	Yes	7
Rock Spring	"	W. J. Collier	J. W. Hughes	Hyatt	154	14	1	1	4	5	5	..	1	162	..	....		4	..	Yes	..
Roswell Creek	Blount	J. E. Bagwell	S. A. Cain	Summit	7	3	10	..	..	....	....	..	..	20	..	....		1	..	.....	..
Ruth	Marshall	T. J. Weaver	G. W. Bishop	.....	41	..	5	..	..	..	2	..	5	33	..	....		4	..	.....	..
*Sardis	Etowah	J. J. Clayton	E. Tidwell	Mountainboro	28	11	3	..	..	....	1	..	..	41	..	....		4	..	Yes	..
Shady Grove	"	M. F. Owens	J. J. Rogers	"	87	....	7	....	2	3	1	..	1	91	6	54	J. J. Rogers, Mountainboro	2	..	.....	..
Shiloh	Marshall	W. P. Groover	D. C. Wright	Alice	100	....	....	....	..	23	3	..	..	74	..	....		1	..	.....	..
Union	"	W. M. Scarboro	F. G. McBrayer	Albertville	64	5	8	....	..	3	1	..	2	71	9	111	J. R. Christian Albertville	3	..	Yes	2
Union Grove	"	J. J. Clayton	R. M. Dick	"	72	6	11	....	..	6	2	..	1	80	5	25	A. J. Lawler, Albertville	2	Yes	Yes	..
Lystra & Hulaco	Not rep'd	.....	.....	.....	76	....	....	....	..	..	....	..	..	76	..	....		..	..	.....	..
					1897	217	168	32	26	140	35	12	29	2098	94	1009					69

*Sardis changed from Warrior River Association.

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